

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 07583 280743Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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S E C R E T AMMAN 7583

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EAID, JO, US,IS
SUBJECT: MAQARIN DAM -- NEXT STEPS

REF: STATE 309283

1. WE ARE PLEASED BY BASIC DECISION REFLECTED REFTEL
AND EXPECT SOON TO APPROACH KING ALONG GENERAL LINES
STATED. BEFORE WE DO SO, THERE ARE SEVERAL POINTS OF
DETAIL WHICH WE HOPE COULD BE CLARIFIED.

2. THE PRINCIPAL QUESTION WHICH THE KING WILL HAVE IS
WHAT IN EFFECT ARE WE PREPARED TO TALK TO ISRAELIS
ABOUT? CABLE IMPLIES THAT DISCUSSION WOULD INVOLVE
ONLY WATER FLOW AND PRECIPITATION DATA AND GENERALIZED
REACTION TO HARZA REPORT. EVEN THOUGH WE ARE PLAYING
ONLY " INFORMAL" ROLE AT THIS TIME, IT WOULD SEEM TO
US THAT A BROADER RANGE OF QUESTIONS MIGHT AT LEAST
BE RAISED WITH THE ISRAELIS. WE WOULD SUGGEST THERE-
FORE THAT KING BE TOLD THAT THIS STEP WE ARE NOW
TAKING IS DESIGNED TO ELUCIDATE WIDEST POSSIBLE AMOUNT
OF INFORMATION ON MAQARIN-WATER RIGHTS PROBLEM FOR OUR
OWN USE. WE WOULD THEN BELIEVE IT PARTICULARLY

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IMPORTANT FOR US TO ADDRESS MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE
QUESTIONS RAISED IN STATE 276051. IN THIS LATTER
CONNECTION FOR EXAMPLE POSSIBLE EXCEPTIONS MIGHT BE
SOME SOFT PEDALING NOW OF LAST TWO SECTIONS OF
QUESTION A AND OF QUESTION J IN ITS ENTIRETY.
HOWEVER, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE AUTHORIZED TO STATE TO

THE KING THAT WE INTEND TO PURSUE THIS LINE OF DISCUSSION WITH THE ISRAELIS ONCE THEY HAVE HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO DIGEST THE DETAILS OF THE MAQARIN PROJECT AS SET FORTH IN THE HARZA STUDY. WE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO THE ISRAELIS ALSO THAT IN PROVIDING THE HARZA STUDY WE ACCEPT THEIR EARLIER COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS THE QUESTIONS. IT MIGHT ALSO BE ADVANTAGEOUS FOR US INFORMALLY TO ADDRESS SAME RANGE OF QUESTIONS (ALTERED AS FACTUAL CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE) TO THE JORDANIANS.

3. IN ADDITION, WHILE WE HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO USE OF AID TECHNICAL PERSONNEL IN CONNECTION WITH INQUIRIES TO ISRAELIS, IT WOULD SEEM TO ME THAT SINCE PROBLEM IS BEING HANDLED AT HIGHEST POLITICAL LEVELS IN JORDAN, SOME DISPLAY OF POLITICAL INTEREST AT A FAIRLY SENIOR LEVEL ON US SIDE WHEN DEALING WITH ISRAELIS WOULD ALSO BE REQUIRED. THIS WOULD GIVE ISRAELIS EXACTLY THE SAME IMPRESSION OF THE APPROACH WHICH WE ARE MAKING AS THE JORDANIANS. TO DO LESS WOULD, IN OUR JUDGMENT, LEAD TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON THE PART OF THE ISRAELIS AS TO THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE APPROACH AND ITS EMINENTLY POLITICAL NATURE. IT IS OBVIOUSLY OF COURSE UP TO ISRAELIS TO DESIGNATE ON THEIR SIDE THOSE WHO MIGHT MEET WITH US, BUT IT IS NOT TOO EARLY IN OUR JUDGMENT TO GIVE THEM THE IMPRESSION THAT WE DO ATTACH SOME POLITICAL WEIGHT TO OUR ROLE. BOTH THE NATURE OF US REPRESENTATION AND THE QUESTIONS WE ASK WILL HELP TO DO THIS. WE ALSO SUSPECT THAT APPROACH BY AID TECHNICAL PERSONNEL TO ISRAEL WOULD TAKE ON CHARACTER OF "POLITICAL" SIGNIFICANCE, EVEN IF THEIR
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APPROACH WAS OTHERWISE INTENDED.

4. WITH RESPECT TO PARA 4 REFTTEL, IT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER PROPOSAL TO HAVE BAXTER HOLD MEETING WITH GOI "ACCOMPANIED BY U.S. TECHNICAL EXPERTS" MEANS THAT BAXTER WOULD ALSO TRAVEL TO ISRAEL ON PROPOSED MISSION OF AID EXPERTS OR WHETHER BAXTER MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE IN U.S. WE BELIEVE HIS ACCESS TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THE ISRAELIS AND HIS POSSIBLE PARTICIPATION IN THE DISCUSSION FOR REASONS ADVANCED EARLIER WOULD MAKE HIS REPORT MORE VALUABLE.

5. IF THE ABOVE IS POSSIBLE, I BELIEVE WE COULD TREAT RELEASE OF HARZA REPORT WITH KING ON BASIS MORE CLOSELY RELATED TO THAT SUGGESTED BY AMMAN -- THAT PROJECT HAS ENTERED NEW PHASE AND WITH US ADOPTING INFORMAL GOOD OFFICES ROLE IT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO PROCEED TO SOUND OUT BOTH PARTIES ON MAQARIN AND ITS

IMPLICATIONS FOR THEM. TO PROTECT THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF DISCUSSION, WHICH IS ALSO PRIMARY POINT ON KING'S MIND, IT WOULD BE OUR PREFERENCE TO SEE TALKS HELD IN WASHINGTON RATHER THAN IN SERIES OF VISITS TO ISRAEL.

6. FINALLY, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE KING MIGHT BE IMPELLED TO REFUSE HARZA REPORT -- HIS INITIAL REACTIONS WE MUST REMEMBER WERE SHARP AND CLEAR CUT ON THIS POINT -- USE OF PARAGRAPH 7G OF REFTEL WOULD ONLY RESULT IN CAUSING HIM TO DIG IN FURTHER. I HOPE I HAVE YOUR APPROVAL NOT TO RAISE ISSUE IN THIS LIGHT. IN MY JUDGMENT, IF WE ARE NOT SUCESSFUL IN GAINING HIS APPROVAL FOR PROVISION OF HARZA REPORT, WE MAY WELL BE SUCESSFUL IN GETTING HIS APPROVAL FOR US TO PROVIDE ISRAELIS WITH, IN EFFECT, SUM TOTAL OF INFORMATION CONTAINED THEREIN IN ANOTHER FORM -- IN SOME US UNILATERAL REPORT PREPARED ESPECIALLY FOR
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ISRAELIS. ALTERNATIVELY, FINAL DRAFT OF INTERIM HARZA REPORT REFLECTING CHANGES AGREED ON IN WASHINGTON IS, WE ALSO UNDERSTAND, UNDER PREPARATION PROVISION OF SUCH AND MIGHT BE ANOTHER POSSIBLE FALLBACK.

7. IF ABOVE APPROACH AGREEABLE TO WASHINGTON, WE WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH KING SHORTLY ABOUT IT.
PICKERING

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NNN

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